Social Services and Seniors
Annual Report

Prince Edward Island
CANADA
Social Services and Seniors

for the Fiscal Year
April 2007 to March 2008

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Prince Edward Island

CANADA

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March 31, 2009

Honourable Barbara A. Hagerman
Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island
PO Box 846
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7L9

May It Please Your Honour:

As the minister of Social Services and Seniors, it is my privilege to submit our annual report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2008. As well as reporting on the department's activity during this period, this report satisfies the requirements of Section 5 of the *Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act* and Section 10 of the *Social Assistance Act*.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Currie

Doug W. Currie
Minister of Social Services and Seniors

March 28, 2009

Honourable Doug W. Currie
Minister of Social Services and Seniors
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8

Honourable Minister:

It is my pleasure to provide you with the 2007-2008 annual report for the Department of Social Services and Seniors along with the year-end financial summary.

The department had many notable achievements in 2007-2008. In November, the Seniors Emergency Home Repair Program was restored. This program helps seniors continue living in their own homes by covering half of the cost of necessary home repairs, to a maximum grant of $1,500.

In December, the department announced a comprehensive review of the disability supports and services available in Prince Edward Island. This review is exciting in that it provided stakeholders and the public in general an opportunity to share their ideas with government on the current and future needs of Islanders living with disabilities. I look forward to the release of the final report in the spring of 2009.

We were also pleased to initiate the first mandated review of the *Child Protection Act* this past year. A *Child Protection Act* Review Advisory Committee was appointed and hosted several public, private, and professional consultations across the province, receiving input from over 500 Islanders. A final report entitled *Prince Edward Island Child Protection Act: What We Heard* was tabled in the Legislature in November 2008.

In 2007-2008 record high oil prices were a concern around the world and created a hardship for many Islanders on fixed incomes. The Department of Social Services and Seniors recognized this, and provided $200,000 in funding to the Salvation Army's Fuel Program. This funding would go on to provide emergency assistance to more than 300 low-income Island families and individuals over the next year.

As always, I would like to express my thanks to the staff of the Department of Social Services and Seniors for their dedicated service during the past year.

Sincerely,

Sharon Cameron

Sharon Cameron, Deputy Minister
Department of Social Services and Seniors

Le 28 mars 2009

Honorable Doug W. Currie
Ministre des Services sociaux et des Aînés
C.P. 2000
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8

Monsieur le Ministre,

J'ai le plaisir de vous remettre le rapport annuel 2007-2008 du ministère des Services sociaux et des Aînés ainsi que le sommaire financier de fin d'année.

Le ministère a réalisé plusieurs projets importants en 2007-2008. En novembre, le Programme de réparations domiciliaires urgentes pour aînés a été relancé. Ce programme aide les aînés à continuer à vivre dans leur propre maison en contribuant la moitié des coûts de réparations domiciliaires nécessaires, jusqu'à concurrence de 1 500 $.

En décembre, le ministère annonçait la révision exhaustive du soutien et des services pour les personnes handicapées à l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard. Cette révision était intéressante puisqu'elle permettait aux intervenants et au grand public de partager leurs idées avec le gouvernement sur les besoins actuels et futurs des Insulaires vivant avec des incapacités. J'ai hâte au lancement du rapport final qui aura lieu au printemps 2009.

Nous étions aussi contents d'initier la première révision mandatée de la *Child Protection Act* (loi sur la protection des enfants) au cours de la dernière année. Un comité consultatif sur la révision de cette loi a été créé et a tenu des consultations publiques, privées et professionnelles un peu partout dans la province, recevant des commentaires de plus de 500 Insulaires. Un rapport final intitulé *Prince Edward Island Child Protection Act: What We Heard* a été déposé à l'Assemblée législative en novembre 2008.

Les prix records du pétrole en 2007-08 ont fait des vagues autour du monde et ont posé des difficultés pour de nombreux Insulaires à revenu fixe. Le ministère des Services sociaux et des Aînés a passé à l'action en versant 200 000 $ au programme de carburant de l'Armée du Salut, ce qui a aidé à plus de 300 familles et individus à faible revenu au cours de l'année.

Comme toujours je tiens à exprimer ma reconnaissance aux membres du personnel du ministère des Services sociaux et des Aînés pour leur dévouement au cours de la dernière année.

Sharon Cameron

Sharon Cameron, Sous-ministre
Ministère des Services sociaux et des Aînés

Introduction

The Department of Social Services and Seniors is committed to helping individuals, families and Island communities reach their full potential. The department works collaboratively with Islanders to support and protect the vulnerable members of our one Island community, while at the same time promoting healthy, self-reliant individuals.

The department is comprised of four divisions: **Child and Family Services, Social Programs, Dental Health and Provincial Drug Programs** and **Corporate and Financial Services**. Within these divisions, more than 500 staff members provide programs as varied as child protection services, disability supports, drug cost assistance for seniors and housing services to the citizens of Prince Edward Island.

The department is also responsible for a number of Prince Edward Island's statutes including:

- The *Child Protection Act,*
- The *Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act,*
- The *Adoption Act,*
- The *Social Assistance Act,*
- The *Child Care Facilities Act,*
- The *Health Authorities Employees Act,*
- The *Housing Corporation Act,*
- The *Social Work Act,* and
- The *Drug Cost Assistance Act.*

These statutes provide our staff with the necessary legislative authority to be able to perform their duties.

Introduction

Le ministère des Services sociaux et des Aînés s'engage à aider les individus, les familles et les communautés de l'Île à atteindre leur plein potentiel. Le ministère travaille en collaboration avec les Insulaires en vue d'appuyer et protéger les membres vulnérables de notre communauté unie, tout en faisant la promotion d'individus autonomes et en santé.

Le ministère se compose de quatre divisions : Services à l'enfance et à la famille, Programmes sociaux, Pharmacie et services dentaires, Services ministériels et financiers. À l'intérieur de ces divisions, près de 500 membres du personnel fournissent aux citoyens de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard des programmes aussi variés que la protection des enfants, l'appui aux personnes handicapées, l'aide à défrayer le coût des médicaments et le logement.

Le ministère est également responsable de plusieurs lois de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard, notamment:

- *Child Protection Act* (loi sur la protection des enfants);
- *Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act* (loi sur la réhabilitation des personnes handicapées);
- *Adoption Act* (loi sur l'adoption);
- *Social Assistance Act* (loi sur l'aide sociale);
- *Child Care Facilities Act* (loi sur les établissements de services de garde);
- *Health Authorities Employees Act* (loi sur les employés des administrations de santé);
- *Housing Corporation Act* (loi sur la société de logement);
- *Social Work Act* (loi sur le travail social);
- *Drug Cost Assistance Act* (loi sur l'aide au titre des médicaments).

Ces lois fournissent l'autorité législative nécessaire à notre personnel pour qu'il soit capable d'exécuter ses fonctions.

Child and Family Services Division

The mandate of the Child and Family Services Division is to promote the safety and well-being of children and families in Prince Edward Island. Programs provided within this division include a broad range of child welfare services including child protection, family preservation, residential, foster care, adoption and provision of care to children/youth in need of protection and in the legal care of the director of child welfare. This division is legally responsible for the *Child Protection Act (2003)*, *Adoption Act (1995)*, and the director of child welfare is the designated central authority under the *PEI Intercountry Adoption (Hague Convention) Act (1994)*. Legislation sets out the provincial authorities and duties with respect to the protection, care and guardianship of children who become subject to the related acts. This division is also responsible for family violence and child sexual abuse prevention initiatives.

Programs Provided by the Child and Family Services Division

Child Protection Services

Through the authority of the *Child Protection Act,* child protection services are available across the province on a 24/7 basis. Legislated requirements include mandatory reporting, assessment, investigation, and provision of services to children deemed to be in need of protection.

Number of Child Protection Investigations Opened by Child Protection Services			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Investigations opened	1,026	1,067	1,315

Number of Child Protection Services Opened Following an Investigation			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Interventions performed	214	187	340

Children in Care

The Children in Care Program is designed to provide services to children deemed to be in need of protection and in the legal care of the director of child welfare. The director of child welfare, as the legal custodian/guardian, has a responsibility for the duty of care for all children/youth in his care.

Number of Children in Care in Prince Edward Island*			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Children in care	295	280	264

*In preparation of this year's annual report, it was noted that heading designating the year of reporting was incorrect in prior annual reports. Prior years' statistics have been updated to reflect the correct year.

Number of Children in Care Residing in Residential Services in Prince Edward Island			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Children served	117	109	108

Foster Care

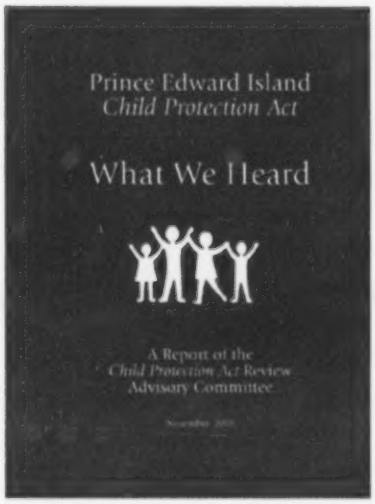
The Foster Care Program provides day-to-day care for children and youth in the custody and/or guardianship of the director of child welfare for Prince Edward Island whose legal status may be temporary, permanent, voluntary or court ordered. The director of child welfare contracts with foster caregivers who provide the day-to-day care for the children/youth in his care. The Foster Care Program includes recruitment and retention initiatives aimed to sustain this invaluable service in the protection and safety of vulnerable Island children and their families experiencing life transitions.

The PEI Federation of Foster Families is a key partner in the provision of foster care services in Prince Edward Island.

Number of Homes Providing Foster Care in Prince Edward Island			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Foster homes	107	99	96

Child Protection Act Review

In accordance with section 58 (1) of the *Child Protection Act*, Honourable Doug Currie, Minister of Social Services and Seniors appointed members to an Advisory Committee in October 2007. The committee was mandated to report, within six months, on the operation and administration of the act and to determine whether or not its principles and purposes are being achieved. The 17-member Advisory Committee established a fundamental operating principle that committee members would make every effort to create opportunities for input and participation of Islanders throughout the *Child Protection Act* review process which included the engagement of communities, organizations, groups, and individuals.



From the outset, the Advisory Committee was dedicated to creating a safe, respectful, and comfortable atmosphere that allowed individuals to share their views regarding the *Child Protection Act*. Due to the overwhelming response by Islanders, timelines for the review had to be extended to ensure all those wishing to participate were afforded an opportunity to be heard. In total, over 500 Islanders participated in the review through: five public consultations held across the province; three professional consultations; 18 private/group consultations; consultation with young people in the care of the director of child welfare; community youth group consultation; youth consultations through the assistance of school counsellors across the province; two aboriginal consultations hosted and facilitated by the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI; a written submission from the Native Council of PEI; Child Welfare staff consultations and written submissions; and 29 written submissions received from a broad range of Islanders including youth, parents, family members, grandparents, foster parents, social workers, health care providers, educators, justice representatives, community organizations, and service providers. A final report entitled *Prince Edward Island Child Protection Act: What We Heard* was tabled in the Legislature in November 2008.

Healthy Child Development

The Healthy Child Development section has responsibility for the delivery of preschool autism services, childcare standards and licensing, as well as the Healthy Child Development Strategy. This section also provides resource support to the Premier's Council on Healthy Child Development and the Prince Edward Island Children's Secretariat.

Number of Licensed Early Childhood Spaces in Prince Edward Island			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Early childhood spaces	4,681	4,824	4,910

Number of Licensed Early Childhood Centres in Prince Edward Island			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Early childhood centres	131	141	144

Family Violence Prevention

Family violence is an abuse of power and control in relationships of family, trust, and dependancy. All Islanders have the right to live in safety and security. Ultimately, the sorrow and pain that results from family violence must be addressed by our entire Island community. The Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention is an example of how, together, we can strengthen our goal of safer families and communities for all Islanders.

The Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention is a 27-member committee consisting of community and government representatives mandated to shepherd implementation of the provincial Family Violence Prevention Strategy and promote increased public education and awareness to the many forms of violence within relationships of trust and dependancy.

2007-2008 Expenditures (Rounded to the nearest $000)		
	Original Budget	Actuals
Child and Family Services Division	$16,397,000	$16,466,000

Social Programs Division

The Social Programs Division provides services to Islanders in areas such as social assistance, child care subsidies, housing services and disability supports. The Social Programs Division also provides funding to a number of non-government organizations that provide services to the citizens of Prince Edward Island.

Programs Provided by the Social Programs Division

Social Assistance Program

The Social Assistance Program provides benefits to Islanders in need of support to meet their basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter and/or medical requirements. These benefits are provided on a case-by-case basis to Islanders who meet the program eligibility requirements. Programs include financial support; medical, optical and dental assistance; and assistance with funerals.

Number of Clients Who Have Accessed Social Assistance Benefits in Prince Edward Island			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Clients assisted	6,119	5,659	5,462

Disability Support Program

The Disability Support Program (DSP) is the first program in Canada to distinguish disability-specific support from income support. The purpose of DSP is to assist with personal planning and to help meet the needs related to an individual's disability. These supports are needs-based, and they are not intended to provide income.

Supports are provided in three main areas:

- child disability supports,
- adult disability supports, and
- employment and vocational supports.

Supports can take a number of different forms, including support for respite care, funding supports for intensive behavioural intervention for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, community living and community participation supports, technical aids and other devices and family support programs.

Number of Clients Provided with Disability Supports in Prince Edward Island			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Clients supported	1,076	1,106	1,065

Child Care Subsidy Program

The Child Care Subsidy Program provides assistance to parents for the cost of licensed child care. These subsidies will pay for all or part of the cost of child care based on a family's annual net income and family size using income thresholds. Subsidies are used to pay tuition costs for early childhood programs licensed by the Child Care Facilities Board. These include day care centres, nursery programs, family day care homes, and before and after school programs. In total, 35 per cent of all registered child care spaces in PEI receive subsidies from this program.

Number of Children and Families Who Accessed Child Care Subsidies in Prince Edward Island			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Children subsidized	2,171	2,035	2,117
Families assisted	1,440	1,362	1,414

Donation to the Salvation Army's Fuel Program

In March 2008, Premier Robert Ghiz and Social Services and Seniors Minister Doug Currie announced a $200,000 donation to the Salvation Army's Fuel Program. The contribution to the program was made in response to the growing number of low-income individuals and families who were struggling to heat their homes due to a sudden spike in the cost of heating oil.

The Salvation Army Fuel Program provides up to 450 litres of heating oil per year on an emergency basis to low-income Island families. The Province's donation provided assistance to more than 300 Island families throughout the year.

Premier Robert Ghiz (far left) and Social Services and Seniors Minister Doug Currie (far right) present a $200,000 contribution to Major Derrick Barrow, Marj Montgomery and Captain Steven Manual of the Salvation Army for the fuel program.

Seniors Housing Program

The Seniors Housing Program provides apartment-style rental accommodations to low and moderate income seniors who are unable to independently meet their housing needs. In 2007-08 rent was calculated as 25 per cent of income. Social Assistance recipients are charged a social assistance fixed rate of $220 in all areas of the province except Charlottetown where the rate is $405.

Number of Seniors Housing Units in Prince Edward Island			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Seniors housing units	1,158	1,158	1,157

Family Housing Program

The Family Housing Program provides rental housing for families with low to moderate incomes. Units are managed by nine local housing authorities (community volunteers appointed by Executive Council). In 2007-08 rents were based on 25 per cent of income. Social assistance recipients paid the greater of, social assistance fixed rate, or 25 per cent of income.

Number of Family Housing Units in Prince Edward Island			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Family housing units	476	476	476

Canada-PEI Affordable Housing Program

Federal/provincial agreements were signed in 2003 and 2005 which provided $4.16 million from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation toward forgivable loans to encourage the creation of affordable housing units through new construction/home ownership and conversion of properties. Developers could be eligible for a forgivable loan if they maintain these units at a fixed below market rent and rent exclusively to low-income tenants for 10 years.

Number of New Housing Units Developed as a Result of the Canada-PEI Affordable Housing Program in Prince Edward Island			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
New housing units developed	9	18	34

Seniors Emergency Home Repair Program

In November 2007, the Seniors Emergency Home Repair Program was re-introduced in Prince Edward Island by the Department of Social Services and Seniors. Designed to allow seniors to continue to live in their own homes and communities safely, this program provides seniors with 50 per cent of any necessary repair costs for their home, up to a maximum grant of $1,500.

Honourable Doug Currrie, Minister Responsible for Seniors is joined by Seniors' Secretariat members Antoine Richard of Wellington and Betty Robertson of Summerside to announce details of the Seniors' Emergency Home Repair Program.

Since its re-introduction, the program has been a tremendous success. In the first five months alone, 183 homes were repaired with more than $204,100 in grants provided to Island seniors by the program.

2007-2008 Expenditures (Rounded to the nearest $000)		
	Original Budget	**Actuals**
Social Programs Division	$69,650,000	$67,749,000

Dental Health and Provincial Drug Programs Division

This division is responsible for the delivery of programs and services in the areas of dental health and provincial drug programs.

Programs Provided by Dental Health and the Provincial Drug Programs Division

Dental Health

Dental Public Health assists Prince Edward Islanders in achieving and maintaining optimal oral health. This is achieved through a focus on children and youth, the provision of programs and services based on prevention of disease, promotion of health, and the reduction of barriers to oral health care services.

Children's Dental Care Program

In 2007-08, the Children's Dental Care Program expanded to make dental services available to all Island children aged three through 17. Children are eligible for oral exams, X-rays and most dental treatment. Exams and treatment services are provided in government and private dental clinics across Prince Edward Island.

Children are also eligible for preventive dental services including fluoride, scaling, preventive sealants and oral health education. These preventive services are provided through partnerships with Island schools, as well as in Dental Public Health clinics located across Prince Edward Island.

Number of Children Who Received Dental Services Through the Children's Dental Care Program in Prince Edward Island

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Children served	16,629	16,015	14,928

Children's Orthodontic Program

In Prince Edward Island, there is a limited preventive orthodontic program provided by Dental Public Health using simple removable appliances or retainers. The purpose of the program is to make minor improvements in the position of some teeth, or to intervene early to make minor corrections that will prevent more serious orthodontic problems from occurring.

Number of Children Treated Through the Children's Orthodontic Program in Prince Edward Island			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Children treated	185	145	107

Long Term Care Facilities Dental Program

Through the Long Term Care Facilities Dental Program, eligible residents of provincial and private long term care facilities have an oral health screening done annually by a staff dentist.

The purpose of the screening is to assess for evidence of pain or pathology (oral diseases) and to determine the need for treatment services as well as beneficial preventive services. Residents with dental treatment needs are referred to private dentists at the resident's own expense.

Number of Islanders Living in Long Term Care Facilities Who Were Provided with a Dental Screening in Prince Edward Island			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Seniors screened	873	1,053	668

Cleft Palate Program

The Cleft Palate Orthodontic Funding Program is a limited program that partially covers the cost of necessary orthodontic treatment when the cause of the orthodontic problem is a cleft palate. The program assists the families of all Island children who have misaligned teeth directly related to a hard tissue cleft palate.

Number of Families Provided Assistance Through the Cleft Palate Program in Prince Edward Island			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Families assisted	16	16	21

Provincial Drug Programs

Pharmacy Services is responsible for the delivery of 33 provincial drug programs delivered to the public through retail pharmacies and the Provincial Pharmacy, a central, government-operated pharmacy located in Charlottetown.

Seniors Drug Cost Assistance Program (DCAP)
DCAP provides financial assistance for seniors' drug costs, particularly those costs associated with long-term drug use for chronic conditions. To access DCAP, individuals must be 65 or older, reside in the province for at least three months, and be registered for coverage to receive benefits through Medicare.

Prescriptions for approved medications can be filled in any of the approximately 40 community retail pharmacies in the province. When having a prescription filled, individuals pay an $11 co-pay plus a pharmacy professional fee of between $7 and $12 per prescription. All other costs for the prescription are paid under DCAP.

Number of Seniors Provided Assistance for Drug Costs in Prince Edward Island			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Seniors assisted	14,733	15,255	16,118

Family Health Benefit Program
The Prince Edward Island Family Health Benefit Program helps low-income families with children with the cost of approved prescription drugs. Eligibility is based on family size and the net family income from the previous year. Through the program, families pay a pharmacy professional fee of between $7 and $12 per prescription, and the program covers all other costs of the prescription. Families can get prescriptions filled at any pharmacy on PEI.

Number of People Who Accessed the Family Health Benefit Program in Prince Edward Island			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Islanders accessing the Family Health Benefit	1,192	1,127	1,114

High Cost Drugs

Multiple Sclerosis Medications Cost Assistance Program
The Multiple Sclerosis Medications Cost Assistance Program was implemented to provide persons diagnosed with relapsing-remitting and secondary progressive Multiple Sclerosis with income-based financial assistance for the purchase of four currently available MS medications: Avonex, Betaseron, Copaxone, and Rebif.

Number of People Receiving Assistance for Multiple Sclerosis Medications in Prince Edward Island			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Islanders assisted	62	88	70

Remicade, Enbrel and Humira Program

The Remicade, Enbrel and Humira Program provides income-based financial assistance to people using these medications for the treatment of severe Rheumatoid Arthritis and Crohn's Disease. Coverage is limited to people eligible for PEI Medicare and who meet specific clinical criteria based upon coverage criteria recommended by the Atlantic Expert Advisory Committee.

Number of People Who Received Drug Cost Assistance under the Remicade, Enbrel and Humira Program in Prince Edward Island			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Islanders assisted	28	46	76

Home Oxygen Cost Assistance Program

The Prince Edward Island Home Oxygen Cost Assistance Program provides Island residents with a demonstrated need for home oxygen therapy with assistance toward the costs associated with this therapy. The program will reimburse approved clients 50 per cent of the cost of purchasing approved oxygen equipment and supplies up to a maximum of $200 per month.

Number of People Provided with Home Oxygen Assistance in Prince Edward Island			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Islanders assisted	107	140	170

Other Programs

The Provincial Pharmacy provides several other programs to Islanders, including disease specific programs, diabetes control, immunization programs and nutrition services to pregnant women.

2007-2008 Expenditures (Rounded to the nearest $000)		
	Original Budget	Actuals
Dental Health and Provincial Drug Programs Division	$30,597,000	$28,428,000

Corporate and Financial Services Division

The Corporate and Financial Services Division has the overall responsibility for the Department of Social Services and Seniors in the following areas:

- Minister's and Deputy Minister's Offices
- Financial Services and Audit: payroll administration and accounting services relating to accounts payable and accounts receivable, social assistance audits / investigations
- Human Resources: benefits, staffing, and position management functions.
- Federal, Provincial, Territorial (FPT) and Corporate Relations functions including: Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP), records management, strategic planning, program analysis and FPT liaison on social services-related areas
- Emergency Social Services
- Office of Seniors and the Seniors' Secretariat
- Communications to staff and the public

Programs Provided by the Corporate and Financial Services Division

Strategic Planning

Strategic planning processes within the department are led by senior management, with staff from the Corporate and Financial Services Division providing support where required. In December 2007, the department embarked on an ambitious planning initiative. This initiative sought to provide a unified vision, mission and strategic plan for staff and managers who arrived at the Department of Social Services and Seniors from five separate health regions and/or government departments.

The process was wide reaching with every manager, staff member and many of our partners being provided the opportunity to provide input into the priorities and future direction of the department. The initiative is nearing completion and the departmental strategic plan will be available to the public in 2009.

Poverty Reduction

In 2007-08, departmental staff conducted a literature review, jurisdictional scan and an in-depth review of current investments in poverty reduction initiatives on Prince Edward Island. This was done in an effort to consolidate all available information on poverty reduction initiatives for Islanders.

The work to date has been integrated with other government departments through the deputies Social Policy Table, which is chaired by the Deputy Minister of the Department of Social Services and Seniors. This review provided detailed information on the many programs and services provided by the Province of PEI that help reduce poverty. Through continued consultation with stakeholders, government assists in developing further initiatives and policies to meet identified gaps.

Financial Services and Audit

The Financial Services and Audit staff are responsible for the overall financial and payroll administration for the department. Included in the financial area are the responsibilities for administration of the accounts payable and accounts receivable functions, budgetary administration and management including the delivery of management information to assist in the delivery of programs, projects and services. The section is also responsible for the delivery of payroll services and risk management initiatives for the department.

In addition, the section is responsible for audit services relating to the Social Assistance Program and for providing direction and support on social assistance overpayments. This section also manages the requirements related to the *Housing Corporation Act* in the areas of asset management, debt administration, and local housing authority operations.

Each year, the Financial Services and Audit section is responsible for ensuring that approximately 60,000 cheques are provided to clients of the Social Assistance, Children in Care and Day Care Subsidy programs.

Human Resources

This section is responsible for the range of human resource matters for the overall department including labour relations, personnel administration, staffing, classification services, and performance development. This section also provides application of human resource functions across the department in areas including organization development, training and development, occupational health and safety, human resource planning, and human resources information.

Number of Full and Part-time Employees Within the Department			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Full and part-time employees	498	521	520

Federal, Provincial, Territorial and Corporate Relations

This section is responsible for coordination of Federal, Provincial, Territorial (FPT) relations for the department. FPT tables under the Department of Social Services and Seniors include: Ministers Responsible for Social Services, Ministers Responsible for Seniors, and Ministers Responsible for Housing.

Federal, Provincial, Territorial and Corporate Relations also coordinates the legislative agenda for the department and provides leadership for the development of indicators and results measurement. In addition, this section provides guidance for the department in strategic planning, communications, FOIPP and records management.

Federal, Provincial, Territorial and Corporate Relations provides policy direction and program design services on behalf of the department.

Emergency Social Services

The Department of Social Services and Seniors has provincial responsibility for the planning and coordination of measures for the social care and protection of victims of an emergency or disaster situation.

The department maintains a contract with the Canadian Red Cross to assist for the provision of emergency social management. The purpose of the agreement is for the Canadian Red Cross to assist in the emergency response and the direct provision and support of emergency social services during emergencies or disasters.

Emergency Social Services

In January 2008, a winter ice storm left large sections of Prince Edward Island and an estimated 22,000 Islanders without electricity. Given the scope of the electricity outages, the cold temperatures that followed the storm, and the news that it would be up to a week before electricity was restored to some areas, the Department of Social Services invoked its contract with the Canadian Red Cross.

The Canadian Red Cross called in staff and volunteers from around the Atlantic region, organizing emergency shelters in towns that requested assistance across central and western PEI. These shelters provided Islanders affected by electricity outages with hot food and a warm place to stay until electricity was restored in their homes.

Office of Seniors and the Seniors' Secretariat

The Prince Edward Island Seniors' Secretariat was established in November 2005 to develop and support plans, policy, and programs that will improve the quality of life of Island seniors. The Seniors' Secretariat is also mandated to develop and support public education efforts for seniors and about seniors' issues.

The Seniors' Secretariat focuses on:

- the challenges and opportunities that are arising as the seniors population grows,
- seniors' housing and the issues facing seniors who wish to remain in their own homes,
- seniors' health care and healthy living, and
- promoting the many contributions seniors make to improve our society.

The Seniors' Secretariat is an entry point to provincial government for seniors, community groups, other governments and business. Staff can provide information and direction on government programs and services for seniors.

Prince Edward Island Seniors Guide

In January 2008, the Seniors' Secretariat released The Prince Edward Island Seniors Guide, a 68-page guide to the many programs and services available to Island seniors. Along with the guide, a toll-free information number for seniors, their families and caregivers was announced.

More than 4,000 copies of the Seniors Guide were mailed out during the year, with a second and third printing of the guide becoming necessary to keep up with demand. The Prince Edward Island Seniors' Guide was developed with support from an advisory committee of seniors, representatives of PEI seniors' organizations and the PEI Literacy Alliance.

Prince Edward Island Seniors' Secretariat co-chairs, Anna Duffy (left), Hon. Doug Currie, Minister of Social Services and Seniors along with Premier Robert Ghiz launch the new Prince Edward Island Seniors' Guide and toll-free information number.

2007-2008 Expenditures (Rounded to the nearest $000)		
	Original Budget	**Actuals**
Corporate and Financial Services Division	$2,315,000	$2,255,000

Non-Governmental Organizations

The Department of Social Services and Seniors provides program funding to various non-governmental organizations. This funding ensures the provision of services to Islanders in areas such as employment support, rehabilitation, housing and counselling.

Number of Non-governmental Organizations Funded by the Department of Social Services and Seniors			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Non-governmental organizations funded	29	30	39

In 2007-08, funding was distributed to non-governmental organizations as follows:

Non-Governmental Organization Funding		
Type of NGO	Number	2007-2008 Funding
Residential and/or Training Services for Intellectually Challenged	8	$4,889,600
Family Violence Support and Education Programs	2	841,200
Programs for Individuals with Physical and/or Intellectual Challenges	8	521,400
Support Programs for Island Families and Youth	13	1,443,600
Seniors' Programs	4	72,700
Community Programs	4	57,300
Total	**39**	**$7,825,800**

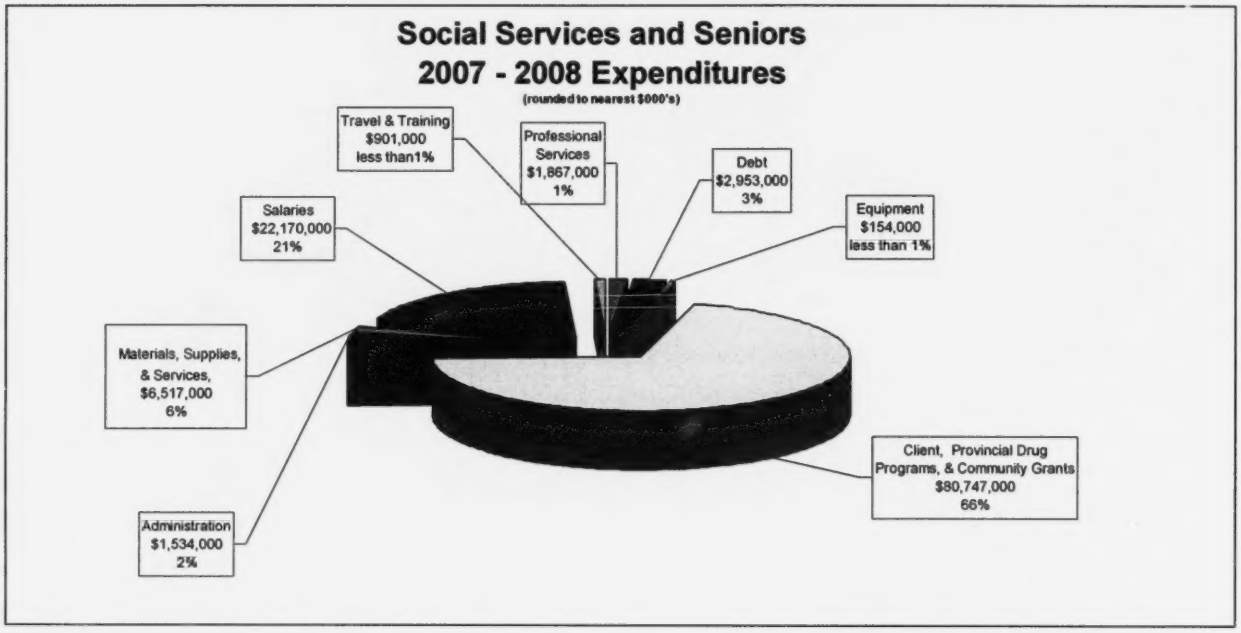
Appendix A

2007-2008 Expenditures and Revenues

2007-2008 Expenditures and Revenues (Rounded to the nearest $000)		
Division	**Original Budget**	**Actuals**
Expenditure Budget		
Corporate and Financial Services	$2,315,000	$2,255,000
Child and Family Services	16,397,000	16,466,000
Social Programs	69,650,000	67,749,000
Dental Health and Provincial Drug Programs	30,597,000	28,428,000
Total	**$118,959,000**	**$114,898,000**
Revenue Budget		
Corporate and Financial Services	$101,000	$46,000
Child and Family Services	596,000	1,558,000
Social Programs	7,073,000	10,303,000
Dental Health and Provincial Drug Programs	401,000	139,000
Total	**$8,171,000**	**$12,046,000**
Total Net	**$110,788,000**	**$102,852,000**

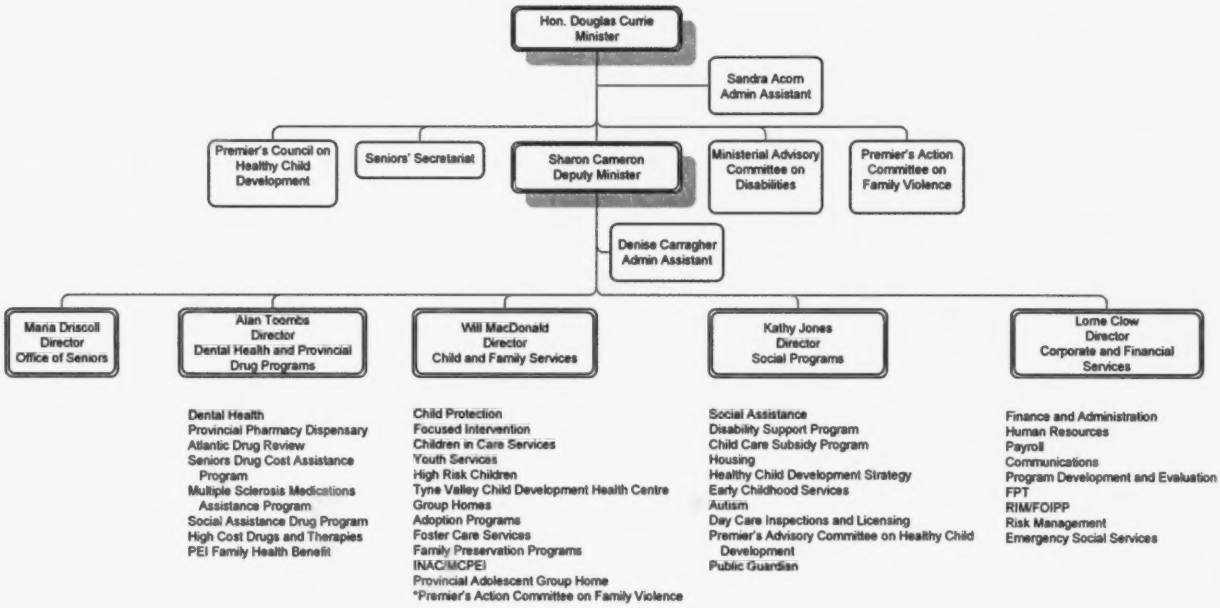
Appendix B

2007-2008 Expenditures by Expense Type



Appendix C

Organizational Chart for the Department of Social Services and Seniors



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